--- 1/40th Pound - “Series of 1883” - 3rd BABN Contract (1878-1886) ---

--- *recess printed* in BLACK on *unwatermarked* vertical mesh wove - scanned at 100% scale ---

--- with 4 mm. blue control numbers - 153 x 13 mm. - perforated 12 ---

The “Series of 1883” strips, occurring only in black (for domestic use) and blue (for importation use), are for 1/40th pound packages. The standard weight for *small cigarettes* at this time was 2½ pounds per thousand. If 2½ pounds came to 1000 cigarettes, then 1/40th pound equalled (1000 ÷ 2.5) ÷ 40 = ten cigarettes. Their length makes them a questionable fit on a package of ten cigarettes. It’s no wonder that used copies are not plentiful. Were they used to hand-band ten cigarettes - as made by local small-time manufacturers?

John McKay records that 1,150,000 copies of the “1-40 Black Ribbon, Cigarettes” were *recess printed* by hand press under the **3rd BABN Contract** (1878-1886). He also records that 56,520 copies of the “1-40, Black Ribbon, Cigarettes” were *recess printed* under the **4th BABN Contract** (1886-1892).

3rd BABN Contract	October 22nd 1878	control numbering	**000001** to 1-**150000**
4th BABN Contract	October 22nd 1886	control numbering	1-**150001** to 1-**206520**

When the total printed reached 1,000,000 the control sequence reverted to **0000001**, as can be seen from an examination of the 1/40th pound blue stamps of the “Series of 1883”.

★**RC-81** - 1/40th pound, black, control **113138**, perforated 12,
recess printed on vertical mesh *unwatermarked* wove paper,
cancelled by **1. 34 9 ‘83** by “A. A. Boutell”, Windsor, Ontario in November 1883

113138★	11/83	RC-81	1/40th pound, perforated 12, stamped **1.34 9 ‘83**
486100	09/85	RC-81	1/40th pound, perforated 12, stamped **1.34 6 ‘85** / **HALIFAX N.S.**

The presence of the many *control-free* 1/40th black sheets of the *imperforate* **RC-81n** indicates that far too many were printed and became remnants.

★**RC-81n CP** - 1/40th pound, black, *without* control numbering, perforated 12,
recess printed on vertical mesh *unwatermarked* wove, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters

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★**RC-81n** - 1/40th pound, black, *without* control numbering, perforated 12,
recess printed on vertical mesh *unwatermarked* wove
with the 54 mm. [British American Bank Note Co. Montreal] sheet imprint

★The collection also contains two *imperforate* sheet of thirty (2 x 15) *control-free* strips of **RC-81n** with the 54 mm. imprint at the top of both columns.

★1/40th pound, black, *without* control numbering, *imperforate*,
recess printed on vertical mesh *unwatermarked* wove paper - ***two copies***

★ 1/40th pound, black, *without* control numbering, *imperforate*,
recess printed on vertical mesh *unwatermarked* wove, stamped **CANCELLED** in 3 mm. Gothic letters

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★ 1/40th pound, black, *without* control numbering, *imperforate*,
recess printed on vertical mesh *unwatermarked* wove - a top inscription pane of three

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The Budget of 1883 had introduced a special discriminatory tax of 20¢ per pound on *small foreign packs* of cigarettes (i.e. less than 1/20th pound). I wonder if the unlisted smaller "Series of 1886" 1/40th pound *black* perforate, inscribed **THREE POUNDS / PER M OR / UNDER**, the accompanying 1/40th pound *blue* stamp, and the companion 1/20th pound stamps, were not designed to accommodate the 1883 *small size tax*, and to *actually fit* the ten and twenty cigarette packages.

--- scraps of interest ---

Erling vanDam supplied the following fragments, probably saved from the waste-basket at BABN by a collector, which are remnants of the design process. They are portions of **RC-81**, were not pasted onto a backing, and were obviously printed onto the back of a calendar page - scanned at 100% scale.

File path is [c:\ CR - STAMPS \ RC_STAMPS \ 1883\ 1-40th black],
In MS Word 2007 for Windows 7,
Formatted for a HP CP 1525 Laser Jet,
December 5th 2013, JBH